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RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER - THE MUSICAL

Page Two



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TORI KELLY

Feature • Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer The Misfit Triumphant

By Michele DeVinney

Each year, as we all eagerly (or perhaps grudgingly) anticipate the holiday season, there is always one special aspect of the holidays that young and old enjoy: the classic television shows.

Back in my day, those shows were on one time each year, and if some conflict arose, you had to wait an entire 12 months for that show to come around again. True story. Networks (and there were four if you include PBS) ran our lives, choosing dates for these special airings willy-nilly, with no regard for plans your parents may have made or school programs scheduled with no thought at all for what the CBS programmers might have in mind. It could be cruel at times. And heart-breaking.

By the time I had children, we had a little thing called a VCR, and I thought all my prayers had been answered. Finally, I could record all these favorite shows and not only see them regardless of when I was home, but I could watch them time and time again throughout the holiday season. Problem solved.

Of course, now I own all of those shows on DVD and begin trotting them out around mid-November. It should be noted that several of my favorites were given to me as gifts from my kids who do occasionally marvel at the fact that their mother may love Christmas even more than they do. There are many of these shows that I watch time and time again on DVD, but I still always enjoy catching the network airings, content in knowing I'm sharing the experience with millions of strangers just like I did 40-some years ago.

The program I have already watched the most this year is *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, the classic Rankin/Bass retelling of the story which was first a successful 1939 book and later a hit song by Gene Autry. But now those versions are dwarfed by the enduring – and endearing – success of the television special which last year celebrated its 50th anniversary. Much of what makes the story of Rudolph so timeless rests in the idea of misfits, a concept most kids understand all too well, and how those who were deemed out-of-step with their society eventually came to rescue it. It's a story of love, acceptance and driving through bad winter weather. And who doesn't need a dose of that every 12 months or so?

That beloved tale is now a touring stage production, one which is visiting the Embassy Theatre courtesy of the Broadway at the Embassy series. The

scenery and costumes are clearly intended to invoke the look and classic feel of the television version of Rudolph, bringing the story to life in a way that will feel almost magical. Photos from the production convey the attention to detail given to every aspect of the show, making it feel like the television story has come to 3D life for an eager audience. A 2013 review in the Orlando Sentinel backs up that impression.

"Based on the now-classic 1964 TV special, *Rudolph* is, of course, aimed at kids," wrote Sentinel theater critic Matthew J. Palm. "But adults will feel a thrilling glow of nostalgia as the stop-motion animated characters of their own childhood come to life on the stage. The show is a technical dream: Marcy Singhaus's camera-ready costumes, Cindy White's clever scenic design, George Jackson's evocative lighting and John Valines' striking sound design combine to bring the beloved cartoon to glorious life. Seeing actors relay the story's message – 'Maybe misfits have a place, too,' narrator Sam the snowman says – makes it resonate more strongly, putting more heart in a Christmas tale that had plenty to begin with."

The songs, already an established and popular aspect of the television special, particularly lend themselves to theatrical

staging. "There's Always Tomorrow" is a perfect love ballad for a musical, and "Why Am I Such a Misfit?" is also perfectly suited to live performance. And when Sam the Snowman hits "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," surely the spirit of Burl Ives will fill the auditorium. It's a perfect way to fill your family with the spirit of Christmas.

Ultimately, the show itself is not about just the joys of Christmas or the fun of live theater. As Darel Jevens of the Chicago Sun-Times noted in his review of last year's production, it speaks to an issue which in 1964 didn't get as much attention as it has rightfully gotten more recently. And that in itself goes a long way to explain why Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer has been making people feel good – in all of its multimedia glory – for the better part of a century.

"To see Rudolph now is to appreciate the show's message about appreciating the misfits, conveyed during a less tolerant time," wrote Jevens. "Rankin-Bass was letting kids know 'it gets better' decades before Dan Savage. It's an idea no less relevant now, and the kids who see it demonstrated at the Broadway Playhouse will learn not just about tolerance, but about retelling a story with affection and ingenuity."



**RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED
REINDEER – THE MUSICAL**
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 16
Embassy Theatre
125 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne
Tix: \$28-\$53 thru Ticketmaster,
Embassy box office & 800-745-3000

Just a reminder: next week's issue is our last of 2015. The December 17 issue has got to carry you all the way until January 7, 2016. Among other things, that means venues and performers need to hustle to get their remaining 2015 and New Year's Eve events into us in order to be included in our calendars. If you have something you need to promote with paid advertising, well, you're probably out of time, but it never hurts to call us here at World Headquarters. We always try as hard as we can to be accommodating.

And while we're on the subject of getting your act in gear, if you're intending to give whatzup Dining Club memberships to family, friends or co-workers this Christmas (and what a wonderful thing that would be!), you're all but out of time. The special Christmas pricing lasts only through Tuesday, the 15th, after which (1) the price goes up and (2) we can't promise you'll get your membership cards in time for Christmas. Use the form on page 5 of this issue, or go to whatzup.com on your PC. You'll be giving a gift that gives all year long, and that's a good thing.

There's still plenty of holiday fun to be had, as a perusal of the features, calendars, columns and ads in this issue will attest. As always, we encourage you to keep a calendar handy as you go through your weekly whatzup, and find the thing (or things) that's gonna best meet your definition of fun. Then go out and have that fun, and remember to tell whoever's making that fun available that whatzup sent you.

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Staying Wholly Committed

By Jen Poiry-Prough

Becky Niccum has spent a lifetime using her imagination and creating her own worlds.

"I loved going back into the woods and pretend that I was living back in Daniel Boone days," she says. "I was perfectly happy and content to play all by myself."

When she wasn't playing on her own, she was inviting her neighborhood friends to put on shows in her front yard. She imbued her stuffed animals with personalities and emotions. She is the youngest of four children, and she and her sister had an especially close relationship. Young Becky would often get out of bed in the middle of the night to entertain her as Lucille Ball or other comedy show personalities or characters.

As she grew, she came to enjoy the more organized plays and holiday shows put on by her classroom.

"I played a pumpkin in the fourth grade, and that was probably when I realized I could get laughs," she says. "I loved it."

She continued to perform in school shows and even performed readings of short stories she had written herself. As she got older, her roles grew, and with them, her love of performing.

Her family shares her love of theater.

"My uncle performs in shows for his church," she says. "My niece in Tennessee is a comedian who writes and performs in plays for her church. I would love to perform with her one day in a comedy sketch that she has written. My parents have always encouraged me to do what made me happy."

She says that her mom took her to her first show (*Hello, Dolly* at the Foellinger Theatre) while she was still in utero. "She always believed that is why I liked performing so much," says Niccum.

It wasn't until she was a high school student that she auditioned for her first community theatre show, *The Night of January 16th* at the Arena Dinner Theatre in 1980, when they performed at the Chamber of Commerce and rehearsed in a building on Broadway.

"I was a nervous wreck," she says, "but I had a great time."

The teenager was cast as Mrs. John Hutchins, which required aging makeup and a wig. Niccum matured a lot offstage as well. "I definitely grew up and opened up as an individual," she says, crediting DonEtte Harold and Elaine Nickels for mentoring her along the way.

Niccum began auditioning for more shows and worked backstage for nearly every show they produced for the next several years.

"Being at the theater was what I lived for and was totally committed to," she says. "Back then, people made stronger commitments to the shows they were involved in. It's sad, but people are stretched so thin to-

day, they can no longer be totally committed to anything."

She took a job as assistant director at the Fort Wayne Theatre, working directly with Harvey Cocks.

In 1986 she directed her first community show, *Murder on the Nile* at Arena Dinner Theatre.

"I was definitely nervous about this new undertaking," she says, "but I was blessed with an excellent and very talented cast. At



Becky Niccum in IPFW's 2015 production of *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*

that time, Arena was performing at Sunset Catering off Old Decatur Road. One night we lost the power to the stage lights in the middle of the show and ended up finishing the show with just the overhead lights on. The audience went right along with it and didn't seem to mind too much."

The following year, however, she made the difficult decision to stretch herself and move east to work professionally in theater in New York and New Jersey.

She moved to Nutley, New Jersey, 20 minutes from New York City. She rented space in the home of her friend, Vicki Myers, who was the technical director at Growing Stage Theatre in Netcong, New Jersey. Myers got Niccum involved in the productions while she was there.

"It was a low-tier Equity children's theater," says Niccum. "They would bring in two Equity actors for each show, but everyone else volunteered. They did quality productions. I was very proud to be a part of them."

Although she was earning the points needed to join the Actors' Equity Union, Niccum recognized that joining would limit her casting choices. "Once you are Equity, you can only audition for Equity shows or you have to get special permission," she says. "I wanted people to know me better before I limited my options."

She did occasionally take Equity roles, but rather than joining, a small portion of her paycheck was deducted for the union.

She also experienced some down times. "I did an Equity showcase in New York, but it was such a bad production that I felt totally humiliated and refused to invite my agent to see it," she says.

Niccum appeared as a background actor in numerous television productions and was in an independent film, *Purple Paradise*. Although it was never distributed, she did have the opportunity to see it on the big screen at Tribeca.

"It was all a great adventure that I wouldn't change for the world," she says, "but after four years, I needed to come home and be with family. My mom's cancer had come back, and I wanted to be here with her and my dad. I would never change that for anything."

She has worked steadily as an actor and a director ever since, with over 100 productions under her belt to date. Whatever role she plays, Niccum says "the only way to make your character real is by letting them grow from within you. You cannot force it; you have to feel it, by letting the words speak for them, and then you become them."

When she directs, she guides her actors in the same way.

"I always tell people to just let the character speak the words," she says. "They know what they want to say, and then you don't have to worry about forgetting your lines."

The other key to "totally becoming that character on stage" comes from listening.

"Larry Life once said that listening is one of the toughest things for people to do," Niccum says. "And it really is. It's so easy to just [mentally] wander off for a minute, and that's all it takes to lose focus of what's going on in the scene. You have to constantly force yourself to listen to every line and be there every minute."

The other keys to successful theater, Niccum says, are commitment and a willingness to work as an ensemble.

"I would much rather work with someone who is less talented but tries really hard than someone who is full of themselves," she says. "None of us can put on a great show alone. We need each other to make it a success. Both the cast and crew are equally important, and when I direct, I insist that the cast thanks the crew each night for all their assistance. I don't care how big or little the part is, everyone is of equal importance. I have a real issue with arrogance."

Arrogance has not been a problem with the cast of her current show, *Exit Laughing*, at Arena. Niccum plays Millie, a ditzy member of a tight-knit group of friends.

"I love this part and show so much," she says. "Millie is completely innocent. She does things and says things that are really out there. Some people may look at her like

Continued on page 8

whatzup

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Can Star Wars Be Saved?

Star Wars: Aftermath
by Chuck Wendig, Del Rey, 2015

As the world prepares for this month's release of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, there is widespread hope that the film will be the greatest thing since the invention of moving pictures. There is, however, also no small amount of trepidation, given that so much is riding on the need for the movie to be more like the franchise's original trilogy and less like the universally reviled prequel trilogy. If director J.J. Abrams and his crew of writers don't get it right, the entire future of *Star Wars*' role as the Beatles of cinema is at risk.

Star Wars: Aftermath, an official prequel to *The Force Awakens*, may give us a preview of how well the writers of the new film have pulled off the crucial task of keeping the magic alive.

The problem with the prequel trilogy wasn't so much the terrible writing, acting and special effects – although those things didn't help – but rather the entire clunky structure of the series' plot. The original *Star Wars* film was about some scrappy heroes rescuing a princess and blowing up an enemy base. The prequel trilogy was a convoluted (and boring) drama



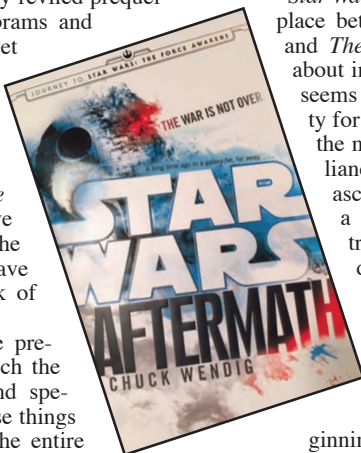
On Books

EVAN GILLESPIE

about intergalactic politics. It sucked every drop of fun out of the original trilogy. If they're to be beloved, the new films can't do that.

Star Wars: Aftermath, which takes place between *Return of the Jedi* and *The Force Awakens*, is also about intergalactic politics, but it seems to understand the necessity for simple adventure, too. As the novel opens, the Rebel Alliance is dealing with being an ascending power rather than a rebellion. Its forces are trying to capitalize on the destruction of the second Death Star months earlier and push back the Imperial influence on planets in the far-flung reaches of the galaxy.

The focus, in the beginning of the book, is on the planet Akiva, where Imperial power is still strong. Alliance pilot Wedge Antilles is on a secret mission to find out details about



Continued on page 13

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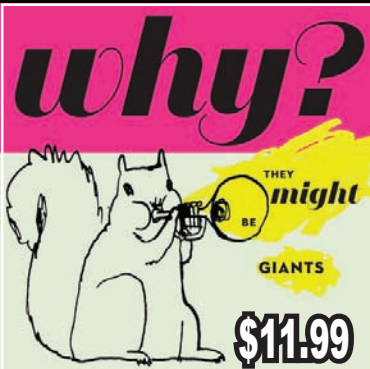
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Wooden Nickel CD of the Week



THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS WHY?

The promotional art for the new album from hipster indie artists They Might Be Giants claims *Why?* is for kids and "for you, too." It also boasts 18 songs and no aftertaste. In other words, these Brooklyn darlings are sticking with their A game, which is catchy, cleverly written tunes that seem to defy age limits, not to mention expectations. Head to any Wooden Nickel Music store to pick up your copy for \$11.99. Why, you might ask? Why not?

TOP SELLERS @

WOODEN NICKEL

(Week ending 12/6/15)

TW	LW	ARTIST/Album
1	1	ADELE 25
2	-	COLDPLAY Head Full of Dreams
3	3	BOB DYLAN The Best of the Cutting Edge
4	6	DANZIG Skeletons
5	3	JEFF LYNNE'S ELO Alone in the Universe
6	-	BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN Ties That Bind: The River Collection
7	-	BABYFACE Return of the Tender Lover
8	-	ROGER WATERS The Wall
9	-	RICK ROSS Black Market
10	8	RUSH R40 Live

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Royal Headache High

Immediacy is not lacking in Royal Headache's world. Call them "heart-on-sleeve garage rock." Call them "soul punk," call them scrappy Aussies, but don't dare call them aloof.

After a breakup scare following 2012's rough-hewn eponymous release, Royal Headache avoid the temporary-to-indefinite-to-permanent-hiatus plague and return with a more assured effort on their second full-length, *High*. In equal measures gut-punching punk, frenetic and frayed-edged rock and pleading soul, *High* is more than the sum of its parts; it transcends pat definition.

On one hand, you have a pinball machine of a live band with a rabid (and growing) following, as evidenced by a now-infamous appearance at the Sydney Opera House that was shut down due to an overly enthusiastic crowd. On the other hand, a frontman who simply goes by the name Shogun infuses his punk-tinged delivery with a large helping of tuneful and heartfelt melody that recalls Motown more than MC5.

If the Strokes favored faster tempos and had put Elvis Costello's early work closer to the front of their record collection, they might have come up with something approximating the bopping, shaggy dog gem "Need You." The title track's beat-dropping-and-adding arrangement adds an interesting edge to the marching tune, and Shogun's nearly sing-shouted vocals carry the tune aloft. "I just wanna stay with you 'cause you get me high" implies a far more romantic notion than you'd think. In fact, Shogun follows with, "I looked into your eyes, and so much was disguised / Now I wanna be with you."

And though the band can trigger involuntary pogo reflexes with the best of them, there are a few surprising shifts on *High*. "Carolina" is a straight-up mid-tempo number, replete with jangly guitars and the kind of vibe that's reminiscent of The Replacements' more tender moments. "Wouldn't You Know" presents Shogun in full croon mode, albeit with distorting microphones and an unfussy instrumental mix. The melding of power-pop, yearning vocals and an amphetamine tempo on "Little Star" leads the album to a satisfying, if all-too-brief, conclusion.

Royal Headache leave you wanting more. For now, you'll just have to spin this one again. And maybe again. (D.M. Jones)

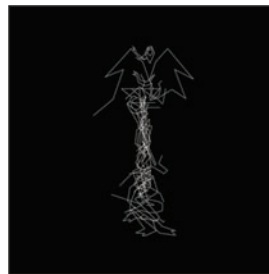
Oneohtrix Point Never Garden of Delete

Oneohtrix Point Never toured with Nine Inch Nails and Soundgarden last year, prompting Daniel Lopatin to change the scope of his music. He wanted to create something more modern, something more rock-influenced. The result is *Garden of Delete*, a mix of distorted vocals, dancer beats and industrial muscle that is both the weirdest album by OPN and one of the best.

There's a story about how this album was a result of the influence of an extraterrestrial named Ezra that came into contact with Lopatin. The album does indeed have somewhat of a story regarding this tale, and there's even a song called "Ezra," but I'm not going to get into that. I'm just going to talk about the songs themselves.

"Intro" is a distorted voice (presumably the aforementioned alien) which leads into "Ezra," a loop-filled track that feels like snippets of memories sewn together with Lopatin's musical storytelling. The song picks up in the middle section like some manic techno freakout before the bottom drops out. "Sticky Drama" feels like OPNs attempt at a pop hit. It contains big bombastic swaths of synth you might hear on some big radio hit, as well as heavily affected vocals that could be some pop diva disguised as a robot. Pretty soon, though, the song descends into some hellish, industrial explosion, like Skinny Puppy devouring Aphex Twin in an attempt to digest its essence. There may be moments of modern pop extravagance here, but make no mistake: this is an Oneohtrix Point Never record.

"SDFK" is a quiet interlude that reminds one of earlier OPN records, and it takes us into the album's centerpiece, "Mutant Standard." An eight-minute ride into deep space and some dark subconscious, the NIN influence is noticeable on this song, but it never feels like Lopatin is aping Trent Reznor. Containing elements of ambient



BACKTRACKS

Faces

First Step (1970)



The Faces rose from the ashes of The Small Faces and The Jeff Beck Group. It was a 'super-group' in every sense of the word, and those original members still living are still producing music today as solo artists and members of other bands.

This album, their debut, was not really appreciated by critics and fans, but it really is some of the best work from Rod Stewart and this merry band.

The record opens with Bob Dylan's "Wicked Messenger" and then into the soulful Ronnie Lane number, "Devotion." That more attention wasn't given to this band still makes me scratch my head. A beautiful track, it could have been covered by Led Zeppelin or The Stones.

"Shake, Shudder, Shiver" is a great blues-soaked number co-written by Stewart, Lane and guitarist Ron Wood. "Around the Plynth" rounds out side one and is one of the best things they ever wrote. You can really hear the Led Zeppelin influence in this track and understand why Wood was recruited to replace Mick Taylor as a full-time member of the Rolling Stones in 1975.

Side two continues the blues-folk-boogie and has a great instrumental in "Pineapple and the Monkey," which has an organ in front of the guitar of Wood and the jazzy drumming from Kenney Jones (the guy who replaced Keith Moon for The Who in 1978).

Lane's bass opens the closing track, "Three Button Hand Me Down," and features band member Ian McLagan on the Hammond organ.

This is a really great album of music from some guys who produced four albums, all of them superb, in just three years.

Lane and McLagan passed away (in 1997 and 2014, respectively), but Stewart, Wood and Jones have gotten together for some gigs, most recently this past September. (Dennis Donahue)

soundscapes and driving techno, the song is carried along by a percussive center that allows for strange aural delights to come in and out of the mix, racing from left to right. "Mutant Standard" feels very much alive and relevant. All of those artists attempting to do what Daniel Lopatin does need to sit down and listen to this song and go back to the drawing board.

"Child of Rage" is another track that showcases the elegance Lopatin brings to electronic and synth music that sometimes gets lost in the weird. It's like Weather Report and Cluster were enveloped into an old IBM motherboard. "I Bite Through It" sounds like Nitzer Ebb and New Order through metal shavings and bad dreams, while Stanley Jordan plays over the mania. "Freaky Eyes," "Lift" and "No Good" take the album to its eventual end, with "No Good" being the reserved, quiet piece this album needs to end on.

Garden of Delete never wavers from the journey it starts at the beginning. It seems Lopatin isn't resting on his laurels by sticking to the same formula. What this album proves is that he is as ever-changing and as vital as the music he creates as Oneohtrix Point Never. I'm not sure how he can top this album, but I'm happy to listen and see if he can. (John Hubner)

NICCUM - From Page 4

she's dumb, but she is just totally innocent."

The nature of the role has presented Niccum with a major acting challenge: not breaking onstage.

"I am pretty sure that I am not going to make the entire run without laughing at least one night," she says. "I also love working with the cast and crew on this show. They are all lots of fun, and the show will definitely bring out laughter from the audience. I really don't think that anyone is going to leave disappointed."

Although she has worked at other theaters in Fort Wayne, Niccum considers Arena Dinner Theatre her home.

"What makes Arena so special is the intimacy with the audience," she says. "You just always have a homey feel there. It's like a family. They don't have a lot of money, but Arena has always been and always will be a survivor."

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NIGHTLIFE

ALLEN COUNTY

4D'S BAR & GRILL
Tavern/Sports Bar • 1820 W. Dupont Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-490-6488
EXPECT: Great food and drink specials and live entertainment; \$2 drink specials daily; \$1 tacos on Mon.; \$1.50 domestic longnecks & \$1 tacos on Tues.; 39¢ wings on Wed. (3-11 p.m., dine-in only); \$1 sliders & \$1.50 longnecks on Thurs.; live music Fri. & Sat.; buy one-get one half off entrees on Sat. (5-8 p.m.); \$7.50 14", 3-topping pizza on Sun.
GETTING THERE: NW corner of Dupont & Lima. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Fri.; noon-3 a.m. Sat.-Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

AJ'S USA BAR & GRILLE
Sports Bar/Tavern • 2472 Getz Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-434-1980
EXPECT: Karaoke every Wednesday and Saturday night, live music, NFL package on 10 screens, billiards, darts, good food, daily specials Monday-Friday, all in a friendly atmosphere. **GETTING THERE:** Located in Canopy Corners on Getz Road between Covington and Illinois. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 12 noon-3 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

ALLEY SPORTS BAR
Sports Bar • 1455 Goshen Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-483-4421
EXPECT: Sports on 21 big screen TVs all week. Sandwiches, wraps, soups and salads. \$10 buckets every Sunday. **GETTING THERE:** Inside Pro Bowl West, Gateway Plaza on Goshen Road. **HOURS:** 1-10 p.m. Mon.-Tues., closed Wed., 1-11 p.m. Thurs., 1 p.m.-1 a.m. Fri.-Sat., 1-9 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

ANNRITA'S LOUNGE & GRILL
Music/Dancing • 6330 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-459-7687
EXPECT: Newly remodeled. Enjoy drinks, dining and dancing in a warm, friendly atmosphere. You'll love our fare of Korean, Italian and tapas dishes. **GETTING THERE:** Located in Covington Plaza next to Fresh Market and Chappell's Restaurant. **HOURS:** Open 4 p.m. Tues.-Sun.; opening for lunch soon. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex, DC

ARCOLA INN & ALE
Pub/Tavern • 11517 Arcola Rd., Arcola • 260-625-4444
EXPECT: Golden Tee, pool table, jukebox, live weekend entertainment, 3 TVs, free WIFI, patio, fire pit. Drink specials: \$3 domestic pitchers \$2 Fire & Ice Sun.; \$1 domestic drafts, \$2 craft drafts, \$3 Captain Mon.; \$2 well drinks Tues.; \$2 Reds, \$3 bombs Wed.; \$2 domestic longnecks, \$3 craft/import longnecks Thurs.; \$5 domestic pitchers Fri.; \$3 Beam or Canadian Mist Sat. **GETTING THERE:** Arcola Rd. & Eme, less than 10 minutes from Fort Wayne. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. daily. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, ATM

BAR 145
Gastro Pub • 4910 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne • 260-209-2117
EXPECT: Pairing premium spirits and beer with gourmet food in an ambient, energetic setting offering live entertainment. Full menu. \$10 lunches including sandwich, side & drink, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; \$15 bottled house wine/\$5 glasses Tues.; \$5 Burger & \$5 Martinis Wed.; \$4 Craft Bottles Thurs. **GETTING THERE:** Between Coliseum and Washington Ctr. on North Clinton. **HOURS:** 11:30 a.m.-12 a.m. Sun.-Tues., 11:30 a.m.-1 a.m. Wed., Thurs., 11:30 a.m.-3 a.m. Fri.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

BEAMER'S SPORTS GRILL
Sports/Music/Variety • W. County Line Rd. & Highway 30 • 260-625-1002
EXPECT: Big Ten, Nascar, NFL Sunday Ticket, pool tournaments, live music Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays. No cover. New owners & management. Complete menu featuring homemade pizza, burgers, steaks, sandwiches and salads. Serving fresh Didier meats. **GETTING THERE:** A quick 10 minutes west of Coliseum on U.S. 30. **HOURS:** Open daily at 11 a.m., noon on Sunday. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Amex, Disc

BOOTLEGGERS SALOON & GALLEY
Pub/Tavern • 2809 W. Main St., Fort Wayne • 260-387-6307
EXPECT: Golden Tee, jukebox, 3 TVs, free WIFI, deck patio, motorcycle parking available. Daily food & drink specials: \$1 coneys & \$2.50 18 oz. domestics Sun.; 50¢ wings & \$3 pitchers Mon.; \$1 tacos & \$1.50 domestic longnecks Tues.; \$1 drafts & 1/2 price pizza Wed.; \$12 buckets & \$1 sliders Thurs.; \$4 pitchers & smoked BBQ ribs, tips & chicken specials Fri.; \$12 buckets Sat. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Jefferson & West Main St., 2 minutes from downtown. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. daily. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, ATM

Calendar • Live Music & Comedy

Thursday, December 10

ALICIA PYLE — Piano at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 426-3442

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE w/DAVE — Karaoke at Latch String, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

BUCCA KARAOKE w/BUCCA — Karaoke at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 432-8966

CHRIS WORTH — Variety at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

JAMIE WISE — Jazz/variety at Annrita's Lounge & Grill, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 459-7687

JASON PAUL — Acoustic variety at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 625-1002

JASON PENNINGTON — Southern gospel at Cupbearer Café, Auburn, 7-9 p.m., free, 920-8734

JEFF McDONALD — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 489-2524

JON DURNELL — Variety at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 7:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 489-0286

LIVE DJ — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

MARCH ON w/COMRADE, BARKY & SPEAKER, ERIC McMILLER AND THE CLASHVILLE SOUND — Indie at Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., \$5, 267-5303

MARK GARR — Acoustic variety at Adams Lake Pub, Wolcottville, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 854-3463

OPEN MIC — Hosted by Mike Conley at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8:30-11 p.m., no cover, 426-2537

OPEN STAGE JAM — Hosted by Pop 'n' Fresh at Office Tavern, Fort Wayne, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., no cover, 478-5827

ROBBIE V AND HEIDI DUO — Variety at Lake George Retreat, Fremont, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 833-2266

SHUT UP & SING w/MICHAEL CAMPBELL — Karaoke at North Star, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., no cover, 471-3798

TORI KELLY w/ALEX ANGELO, BECKY G, MAX — Pop/hip hop at Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., \$25, 481-6555

Friday, December 11

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE — at The Green Frog Inn, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m., no cover, 426-1088

BIG CADDY DADDY — Rock/variety at Martin's Tavern, Garrett, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 357-4290

BIG DICK AND THE PENETRATORS — Classic rock at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 625-1002

BLACK CAT MAMBO — Ska at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 422-5896

BONAFIDE — Variety at Draft Horse Saloon, Orland, 8-11 p.m., cover, 829-6465

BROTHER — Rock at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 489-0286

It'll Be a Hillbilly Casino Christmas

Christmas comes early to The Brass Rail on Sunday, December 20 when the club hosts the return of Hillbilly Casino. From the moment frontman Nic Roulette hits the stage and gives a count off of 1-2-3-4, get ready for an evening of electrifying Casino-style psychobilly.

Hillbilly Casino have come to Roulette's hometown frequently over the years, just frequently enough to leave us thirsting for more. This time around they're bringing Nashville's The Dead Deads, which feature Leo High School grad Angie Lese, aka Billy Dead, on drums.

The Dead Deads' high-energy shows are noted for the pink smoke floating from the stage and black X's on the band's eyes. According to their biography on Sonicbands.com, "The Dead Deads are for fans of everything from 90's bands like The Pixies to modern metal bands like Mastodon, to alternative rock bands like The Foo Fighters or Weezer."

They recently performed on Motörhead's Motorboat cruise alongside bands such as Motörhead, Slayer and Anthrax and toured the U.S. with Halestorm. This show will have an early 8 p.m. start, so arrive early. In addition, the first 30 paid customers (\$8 cover) get a wrapped Christmas present from the bands. I can't think of a better show to wrap up the year than this one. See you there!

Local guitarist extraordinaire Justin Zych (Zephaniah, Cougar Hunter) has added another band to his resumé. This time Zych has teamed up with former



Out and About
NICK BRAUN

Metal Church vocalist Ronny Munroe for his new project, Munroe's Thunder. The band is currently working on material for its debut album, *The Black Watch*, tentatively set for a summer release. Hopefully we see Munroe's Thunder stroll through town soon after.

Early this year Brit Floyd's performance at the Embassy Theatre went down as one of the most talked about shows of 2015. I have to give a thumbs up to the Embassy staff for that show, as prior to that the closest experience they provided was the Pink Floyd laser light shows a few years back. Those who might have missed out or are looking for a gift for that special rocker in the family will be pleased that Brit Floyd are returning to the Hoosier state. On Thursday, March 31, they'll be playing the Murat Theatre at Old National Centre in Indianapolis. Tickets are on sale and range from \$32.50-\$52.50. Those folks who attended the Embassy performance know that this show will be well worth the trip; more importantly, the tickets fit nicely in a Christmas stocking. Since their show here in town, the band has welcomed Italian born guitarist/vocalist Edo Scordo, who replaced Bobby Harrison.

niknit76@yahoo.com

NIGHTLIFE

C2G MUSIC HALL

Music • 323 W. Baker St., Fort Wayne • 260-426-6464

EXPECT: Great live music on one of Fort Wayne's best stages. Diverse musical genres from local, regional and national performers, all in a comfortable, all-ages, family-friendly, intimate atmosphere. Excellent venue for shows, events, presentations, meetings and gatherings. Food catered by local vendors during some shows. **GETTING THERE:** Downtown on Baker between Ewing and Harrison, just south of Parkview Field. **HOURS:** Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors one hour earlier. **ALCOHOL:** Beer & wine during shows only; **PMT:** Cash, check

CALHOUN STREET SOUPS, SALADS & SPIRITS "CS3"

Music/Variety • 1915 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne • 260-456-7005

EXPECT: Great atmosphere, DJ Friday night, live shows, weekly drink specials, private outdoor patio seating. Daily specials, full menu of sandwiches, soups, salads, weekend dinner specials and appetizers. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of South Calhoun Street and Masterson; ample parking on street and lot behind building. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-midnight or later Fri.-Sat.; closed Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

CHAMPIONS SPORTS BAR

Sports Bar • 1150 S. Harrison St., Fort Wayne • 260-467-1638

EXPECT: High-action sports watching experience featuring 30 HD TVs, state-of-the-art sound systems and booths with private flat screen TVs. Great drink specials. Varied menu to suit any palate. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Jefferson Blvd. and S. Harrison St., inside Courtyard by Marriott. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sun.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-12 a.m. Fri.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Amex, Disc, ATM

CHECKERZ BAR & GRILL

Pub/Tavern • 1706 W. Till Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-489-0286

EXPECT: Free WIFI, all sports networks on 10 TVs. Live rock Thursday thru Saturday. Kitchen open daily with full menu and the best wings in town. **GETTING THERE:** On the corner of Lima and Till roads. **HOURS:** 3 p.m.-2 a.m. Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Thurs.-Fri., 12 noon-3 a.m. Sat., 12 noon-2 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, ATM available

COLUMBIA STREET WEST

Rock • 135 W. Columbia St., Fort Wayne • 260-422-5055

EXPECT: The Fort's No. 1 rock club. Live bands every Saturday. DJ Night every Friday w/ladies in free. Also visit Bourbon Street Hideaway, our New Orleans-style restaurant, in the lower level of C-Street; open at 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday (260-422-7500). Large menu featuring salads, sandwiches, pizzas, grinders, Southwestern and daily specials. **GETTING THERE:** Downtown on The Landing. **HOURS:** Open 4 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

CURLY'S VILLAGE INN

Pub/Tavern • 4205 Bluffton Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-747-9964

Expect: Beautiful deck with seating overlooking Saint Marys River. Family owned since 1969. Karaoke every Friday & Saturday, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Voted Fort Wayne's Best Onion Rings in 2011! Daily food and soup specials made from scratch. **Getting There:** Corner of Bluffton and Engle roads, in Waynedale. **HOURS:** Open 1 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 1-9 p.m. Sun. Kitchen open at 5 p.m. daily. **Alcohol:** Full Service **Pmt.:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

DEER PARK PUB

Eclectic • 1530 Leesburg Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-432-8966

EXPECT: Home to Dancioke, 12 craft beer lines, 75 domestic and imported beers, assorted wines, St. Pat's Parade, keg toss, Irish snug and USF students. Friday/Saturday live music, holiday specials. Outdoor beer garden. www.deerparkpub.com. Wi-Fi hotspot. Finger food, tacos every Tuesday. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Leesburg and Spring, across from UFS. **HOURS:** 2 p.m.-1 a.m. Mon.-Thurs., noon-2 a.m. Fri.-Sat., 1-10 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Beer & Wine; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

DICKY'S 21 TAPS

Pub/Tavern • 2910 Maplecrest Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-486-0590

EXPECT: Family-friendly, laid back atmosphere; Great tunes; Large selection of beers; Beautiful patio; Cornhole on Wednesdays. Brand new menu! Daily lunch specials under \$8. **GETTING THERE:** 2 blocks north of State St. on Maplecrest at Georgetown. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sun.-Mon., 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Tue.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-12 midnight Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Amex, Visa, Disc

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CHRIS WORTH & COMPANY — R&B/variety at Arena Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 557-1563

COLIN MOCHRIE & BRAD SHERWOOD — Comedy at Honeywell Center, Wabash, 7:30 p.m., \$19-\$75, 563-1102

DANCE PARTY w/DJ RICH — Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., cover, 422-5055

FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC — Holiday Pops at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$29-\$70, 481-0777

FREAK BROTHERS — Funk at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 483-1311

GREGG BENDER AND FRIENDS — Blues/jazz at Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 482-1618

JOE JUSTICE — Variety at Country Heritage Winery, Laotto, 5-8 p.m., no cover, 637-2980

JOE STABELLI — Jazz at Don Hall's Gas House, Fort Wayne, 5:45-9 p.m., no cover, 426-3411

JOEL YOUNG BAND — Country/rock/blues at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 483-5526

JOHN CURRAN & RENEGADE — Country at The Venue, Angola, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., cover, 665-3922

KAT BOWSER — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m., no cover, 489-2524

LIVE DJ — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

LOOSE GRIP — Rock/variety at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

MASON DIXON LINE — Country at Rusty Spur Saloon I, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 755-3465

POSSUM TROT ORCHESTRA — Funk/jazz at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 432-8966

RUSS WILLIAMSON w/KEN GARR — Comedy at Snickerz Comedy Bar, Fort Wayne, 7:30 & 9:45 p.m., \$9.50, 486-0216

TODD HARROLD BAND — R&B/blues at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 426-3442

TY CAUSEY — R&B/variety at Annrita's Lounge & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 459-7687

Saturday, December 12

10 YEAR REIGN — Rock at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 625-1002

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE w/SCOTT — Karaoke at Latch String, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

BIG CADDY DADDY — Rock/variety at Martin's Tavern, Garrett, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 357-4290

BONAFIDE — Variety at Navy Club, Ship 245, New Haven, 7-11 p.m., no cover, 493-4044

BRAT PACK — Rat Pack at Annrita's Lounge & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 459-7687

BRENT A. COOPER & JAMIE KLEIN — Variety at Don Hall's Triangle Park, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 482-4342

BROTHER — Rock at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 489-0286

DJ TREND — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

FORT WAYNE FUNK ORCHESTRA — Funk at 4D's Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., \$5, 490-6488

FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC — Holiday Pops at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m., \$29-\$70, 481-0777

HOME FREE — Country a cappella Christmas music at Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, Ohio, 7:30 p.m., \$25-\$40, 419-238-6722

IPFW HONOR JAZZ BAND — Jazz at Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 2 p.m., free, 481-6555

JFX — Rock at American Legion 499, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 483-1368

JOE STABELLI — Jazz at Don Hall's Gas House, Fort Wayne, 5:45-9 p.m., no cover, 426-3411

JOHN CURRAN & RENEGADE — Country at The Venue, Angola, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., cover, 665-3922

JON DURNELL BAND — Rock/variety at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 10 p.m., no cover, 749-5396

KARAOKE — Variety at Hamilton House, Hamilton, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 488-3344

KAT BOWSER — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m., no cover, 489-2524

KENNY TAYLOR & FARMLAND JAZZ BAND — Variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 426-3442

KILL THE RABBIT — Rock at Vinnie's Bar, Decatur, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., \$5, 729-2225

MASON DIXON LINE — Country at Rusty Spur Saloon I, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 755-3465

MUSIC LOVERS LOUNGE — Variety at Calhoun Street Soups, Salads & Spirits, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., \$5, 456-7005

ONE EYED WOOKIE — Rock at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., 422-5055

QUINCY SANDERS QUARTET — Funk/jazz at Summit City Brewwerks, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 420-0222

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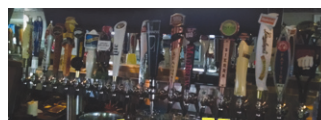
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SIDECAR GARY'S KARAOKE & DJ — Karaoke at K-Ville Pub, Kendallville, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 349-1677

SUSAN MAE & NEW YESTERDAY — R&B/jazz at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 482-6425

TESTED ON ANIMALS — Rock at Taps Pub, Avilla, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 897-3331

TODD HARROLD BAND — R&B/blues at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 426-2537

TOY FACTORY — Rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 483-1311

UNLIKELY DISCIPLES — Contemporary Christian at Cupbearer Café, Auburn, 7-9 p.m., free, 920-8734

THE WHY STORE — Rock at O'Reilly's Irish Bar & Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., \$7, 267-9679

YOU & ALL THE BLIND PEOPLE — Ska/funk at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 422-5896

Sunday, December 13

DAVID PHELPS — Pop Christmas music at Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, Ohio, 7:30 p.m., \$20-\$35, 419-238-6722

MANTRA KARAOKE w/JAKE — at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

SMOOTH EDGE 2 — Vocal jazz benefit at Anchor Community Church, Fort Wayne, 6 p.m., \$5, 422-6329

YESTERDAY'S HEADTRIP — Variety at Latch String, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 483-5526

Monday, December 14

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE — Karaoke at Latch String, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

DJ — Variety at O'Reilly's Irish Bar & Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 11 p.m., no cover, 267-9679

MANTRA KARAOKE w/JAKE — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

MOONBEAM AND MIC — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 6:30-8 p.m., no cover, 432-8966

Tuesday, December 15

FORT WAYNE AREA COMMUNITY BAND — Holiday concert at Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$3-\$8, 481-6555

MANTRA KARAOKE w/JAKE — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

MARK GARR — Acoustic variety at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 5:30-8:30 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

OPEN MIC — Hosted by Dan Smyth at The Green Frog Inn, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 426-1088

Wednesday, December 16

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE w/JOSH — Karaoke at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m., no cover, 422-5055

CHRIS WORTH — Variety at Acme Bar and Grill, Fort Wayne, 8:30-10:30 p.m., no cover, 480-2264

FORT WAYNE COMEDY CONNECTION — Comedy at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC — Holiday Pops at Honeywell Center, Wabash, 7:30 p.m., \$17, 563-1102

Thursday, December 17

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE — Karaoke at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE w/DAVE — Karaoke at Latch String, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

BRENT LACASE TRIO — Jazz/variety at Annrita's Lounge & Grill, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 459-7687

BUCCA KARAOKE w/BUCCA — Karaoke at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 432-8966

DAN SMYTH — Acoustic at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 7:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 489-0286

THE DEPUÉ BROTHERS — Christmas music at Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, Ohio, 7:30 p.m., \$15-\$25, 419-238-6722

JEFF McDONALD — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 489-2524

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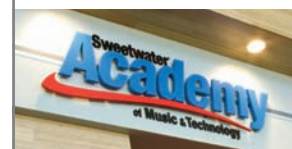
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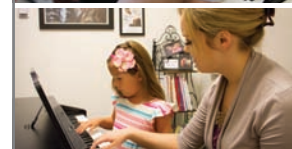
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EXPECT: Great atmosphere at one of Fort Wayne's true landmarks. Great food, great drinks and great friends. Wing Fest Grand Champion wings every Monday and Wednesday for just 50¢ apiece. **GETTING THERE:** Just north of downtown at the corner of Spring and Sherman. **HOURS:** Open 10 a.m.-12 a.m. Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m.-3 a.m. Fri., 12 p.m.-3 a.m. Sat. and 12:30-8 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Amex, Disc

LATCH STRING BAR & GRILL

Pubs & Taverns • 3221 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne • 260-483-5526

EXPECT: Fun, friendly, rustic atmosphere. Daily drink specials. Mondays, \$2.75 imports; Tuesdays, \$2.50 import bottles & \$1 tacos; Wednesdays, \$2 wells and 59¢ bone-in wings; Sundays, \$2.50 bloody Marys. Live bands Friday, Sunday, & Tuesday; comedy improv/open mic Wednesday; karaoke Monday, Thursday & Saturday. No cover. **GETTING THERE:** Where Clinton and Lima roads meet, next to Budget Rental. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 12 noon-12:30 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa

MAD ANTHONY BREWING COMPANY

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EXPECT: Ten beers freshly hand-crafted on premises and the eclectic madness of Munchie Emporium. 4-1/2 star menu, 'One of the best pizzas in America,' large vegetarian menu. **GETTING THERE:** Just south-west of downtown Fort Wayne at Taylor & Broadway. **HOURS:** Usually 11 a.m.-1 a.m. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

NICK'S MARTINI & WINE BAR

Dining & Music • 1227 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-482-6425

EXPECT: Specialty martinis, craft beers and cocktails served up in a classic martini lounge with live music nightly. Serving a variety of small plate appetizers with weekly featured tapas plates and drink specials. **GETTING THERE:** One block east of Crescent on State Blvd., next to the Rib Room. **HOURS:** Open at 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

O'REILLY'S IRISH BAR & RESTAURANT

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SNICKERZ COMEDY BAR

Comedy • 5535 St. Joe Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-486-0216

EXPECT: One of the nation's premiere comedy clubs with the brightest comics in America every Friday & Saturday night. Sandwiches, chicken strips, fish planks, nachos, wings & more. **GETTING THERE:** In front of Piere's. 2.5 miles east of Exit 112A off I-69. **HOURS:** Showtimes are 7:30 & 9:45 p.m. Fri. and Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

STATE GRILL

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EXPECT: 1st Tavern to pour beer after Prohibition; located in a fun and friendly neighborhood; home of the XKE Cranials & most dangerous jukebox. Daily drink specials include \$2 Tall Boy PBR all day, every-day, great craft beer selection. Golden Tee. Free WIFI. Friendly staff: Jonesy, Theresa and Andy. Riverbend Pizza. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of State and Crescent. **HOURS:** 3 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon., 1 p.m.-3 a.m. Tues.-Fri., noon-3 a.m. Sat., noon-1 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** Cash only; ATM on site

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Calendar • Live Music & Comedy

Friday, December 18

80D — Rock at Rex's Rendezvous, Warsaw, 10 p.m., no cover, 574-267-5066

ADAM BAKER & THE HEARTACHE W/ PLAXTON & THE VOID, COPPER THIEVES — Variety at Skeletunes, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 580-1120

ALAN PARR QUARTET — Holiday jazz at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 426-3442

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE — at The Green Frog Inn, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m., no cover, 426-1088

BIG CADDY DADDY — Rock/variety at The Venue, Angola, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., \$5, 665-3922

BRAT PACK — Rat Pack at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

CHRIS WORTH & COMPANY — R&B/variety at American Legion Post 241, Waynedale, 8:30-11:30 p.m., no cover, 747-7851

CITIZENS BAND — Rock at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 489-0286

COUGAR HUNTER — 80s glam rock at Moose Lodge, Bluffton, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., \$5, 824-0660

DALLAS & DOUG SHOW — Variety at Country Heritage Winery, Laotto, 5-8 p.m., no cover, 637-2980

DANCE PARTY w/DJ RICH — Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., cover, 422-5055

DR. SUESS — Rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 483-1311

EVAN GIDLEY QUARTET — Jazz/Funk at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 432-8966

EXPANDING MAN — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m., no cover, 489-2524

FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC — Messiah by Candlelight at First Wayne Street United Methodist, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$35, 481-0777

GRATEFUL GROOVE — Grateful Dead tribute at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 483-5526

JANICE ANNE & MISS KITTY'S REVENGE — Country at Taps Pub, Avilla, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 897-3331

JD SMITH OVER EASY — Variety at Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 482-1618

JOE STABELLI — Jazz at Don Hall's Gas House, Fort Wayne, 5:45-9 p.m., no cover, 426-3411

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The Bulldogs 260-357-3694

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T' IRMSCHER - From Page 6

souri for a time when a friend said, "Hey 'T,' did you know FAME is hiring a director?"

"I decided to go for it, though the title 'executive director' is a little overwhelming. But I decided to try for it anyway. I've always loved the arts. Visual arts especially, but all the arts – dance, music – I love it all. And I believe in serving the community."

FAME, founded in 1987, was the vision of Dorothy Kittaka, who saw the erosion of arts funding in public schools and hoped to fill that void. Under her leadership for more than 20 years, FAME grew tremendously, and its annual festival has become a major event since its first outing in 1988, becoming the largest single event each year at the Grand Wayne Center. Irmscher says taking over the position after such stellar leadership put her in a good position to move the organization forward.

"Dorothy was here for years and years and then Beth Peter served as part-time director, and they left it in good shape, so I walked into something that was already going strong. My job is to keep it that way."

In addition to the annual festival, FAME also runs children's arts classes and summer camps. Irmscher says the goal is to "keep the arts strong and bring out the artist in every child."

The festival earlier this year provided a merging of arts, math and science, providing a partnership with Science Central to combine artistic expression with the study of space. The Star Lab planetarium was particularly popular, and Mark Phenice's Steampunk Space-ship provided a perfect example of cross-disciplines. The next festival, March 19-20, has been designated as an official event of Indiana's bicentennial celebration.

ON BOOKS - From Page 7

the Empire's supply lines to the planet when he gets himself into trouble and has to be rescued. The rescue mission, led by a scrappy heroine this time, sets off a chain of events that proves that the intergalactic conflict is far from over.

Author Chuck Wendig is obviously trying very hard to resurrect the simple spirit of the original *Star Wars* films while also charting out the complex universe that diehard fans demand from the franchise's extended storyline. It's a balancing act that he handles, for the most part, successfully.

The novel does hint at an updating of the tone of the franchise, however, beginning with the fact that the story features Wedge, a minor character from the original trilogy who won't even appear in *The Force Awakens*; don't even start to hope that Han Solo is going to be at the forefront of the new story. There's also a major shift in gender roles: the original trilogy features a total of one female central character, and she started off as a princess who needed to be rescued; in *Aftermath*, not only is the hero a woman, so are an important supporting character and the story's central villain. This, no doubt, helps to set the stage for *The Force Awakens*, where one of two new central characters is a woman.

"We just got the word that we're an official event for bicentennial, so our theme in March will be Artfully Celebrating Indiana. We're bringing in a storytelling mime, and I'm really looking forward to seeing what that's like. We'll have the Miami Indians coming in also to demonstrate bead work, and the Hearthstone Ensemble will be performing. All of the art projects in the Imaginarium will be Indiana based, and we'll have 200 singers perform a song specifically created for the FAME Festival and the Indiana Bicentennial."

One of the most significant changes during her tenure as director has been FAME's move from their offices at IPFW to the Auer Center for Arts & Culture where they joined Fort Wayne Ballet, Artlink and Arts United as tenants.

"We were at IPFW for three or four years, and we were very appreciative of them for having us. But in the end, we couldn't turn down the opportunity to be downtown and be part of the arts campus down here. It's been a godsend for us since it's easier to collaborate with other organizations down here. It's been a nice move for us."

Irmscher is the sole employee of FAME (with the exception of a part-time accountant who sees to the books), which sounds like an overwhelming task. But in the end, she says, FAME is as collaborative within the organization as it is with other organizations. And she credits the board on which she once served with making the work she and FAME do possible.

"Our board works very well together. No one can get to every single event, but our board is there to support us at everything we do," she says. "They all work very hard, and I think we are very good together. I'm very lucky to have the board that I have."

Perhaps even more significant is the story's very modern conception of war, insurgencies and shifts in power. The original trilogy implied that once the second Death Star was destroyed, the Alliance had won and everything was going to end happily ever after. *Aftermath* makes clear that that's not the case, and that the outcome of the Rebel victory is messy and indecisive. It's a very contemporary take on warfare and regime change, certainly influenced by everything from America's Iraq war to the Arab Spring; we know now that the toppling of statues and the shock and awe of big explosions are very unlikely to signal the end of conflicts.

Aftermath is the first of a trilogy of novels that Wendig has been contracted to write, but the other two novels will be released in 2016 and 2017, so *Aftermath* is the only canonical novel that will function as a preview to *The Force Awakens*. (Presumably the other two novels will be used to market future films.) It's the last chance that fans will get to be reassured that *The Force Awakens* will not shatter their dreams of a revived *Star Wars* universe. That's a lot of weight to rest on one book, and *Aftermath* may not be up to the job – but no book ever could be.

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GETTING THERE: At Maplecrest and State, east on State, left at first stoplight. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex, ATM on site

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

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EXPECT: The eclectic madness of the original combined with handcrafted Mad Anthony ales and lagers. Carry-out handcrafted brews available. Live music on Saturdays. The same 4-1/2 star menu, including one of the best pizzas in America and a large vegetarian menu.
GETTING THERE: From U.S. 30, turn southwest on E. Center St.; go 2 miles. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-12:30 a.m. Fri.-Sat.; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full-Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

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EXPECT: The eclectic madness of the original combined with handcrafted Mad Anthony ales and lagers. The same 4-1/2 star menu, including one of the best pizzas in America and a large vegetarian menu. **GETTING THERE:** Take I-69 to State Rd. 8 (Auburn exit); downtown, just north of courthouse. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-12 a.m. Sun.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Fri.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

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EXPECT: Great atmosphere with a beautiful view of lake; 20 beers on tap, 6 large HDTVs, NFL Package (Sunday games), internet juke, Golden Tee, pool table, karaoke every Saturday (9 p.m.); lunch and dinner specials, jumbo wing special every Thursday (50¢ eat-in only). **GETTING THERE:** Corner of roads 1 and 427. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Mon.-Wed.; 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Thurs.-Sat.; 12 noon-12 midnight Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa

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EXPECT: Twelve handcrafted beers on tap; also featuring Indiana craft beers and local wines. Patio with seating for 100; 7 dock slips; 150-seat banquet facility. 4-1/2 star menu, including famous gourmet pizza, unique eats and vegetarian fare. **GETTING THERE:** Located on beautiful Lake James above Bledsoe's Beach. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sun.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-midnight or later Fri.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

Now Accepting Nominations for the Best of 2015 whatzup Readers Poll

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The Academy Is	Dec. 17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Air Supply (\$30-\$60)	Feb. 6 '16	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Anderson East	Feb. 19 '16	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Andrew Bird w/Jason Adasiewicz	Dec. 10	Fourth Presbyterian Church	Chicago
Andrew Bird	Dec. 11	The Hideout	Chicago
Andrew Bird	Apr. 14 '16	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Andrew Bird	Apr. 15 '16	The LC Pavilion	Columbus, OH
Andrew Bird	Apr. 16 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
Ani DeFranco (\$30-\$55)	Apr. 2 '16	Michigan Theater	Ann Arbor
Ani DeFranco w/Chastity Brown	Apr. 3 '16	The Intersection	Grand Rapids
B.J. Thomas	Feb. 27 '16	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Beach House	Feb. 29 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
Beach House	Mar. 1 '16	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Ben Harper & The Innocent Criminals	Apr. 17 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
Big Head Todd & the Monsters w/Mike Doughty	Feb. 9 '16	Vogue	Indianapolis
Bob Saget	Jan. 17 '16	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Bobby Rush & Joe Louis Walker w/Wayne Baker Brooks, Shawn Holt and the Teardrops	Feb. 12 '16	State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Bonnie Raitt	Mar. 16 '16	Detroit Opera House	Detroit
Bonnie Raitt	Mar. 22 '16	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Brandi Carlile	Dec. 30-31	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Brian Culbertson	Apr. 30 '16	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Brian Regan	Jan. 14 '16	Victory Theatre	Evansville
Buckwheat Zydeco (\$20)	Feb. 18 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
California Guitar Trio (\$25)	Mar. 13 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Cameron Carpenter feat. The International Touring Organ	Apr. 9 '16	Cloves Memorial Hall	Indianapolis
Catie Curtis w/Maia Sharp (\$15)	Jan. 11 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Celtic Woman	June 12 '16	DeVos Performance Hall	Grand Rapids
Chris Cagle	Dec. 11	8 Seconds Saloon	Indianapolis
Chris Hillman & Herb Pedersen (\$25)	Apr. 7 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Chris Smither (\$26)	May 6 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Chuck Prophet	Mar. 24 '16	B-Side, One Lucky Guitar	Fort Wayne
Ciara	Apr. 15 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
City and Colour w/Greyhounds	Jan. 30 '16	The Intersection	Grand Rapids
Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood	Dec. 11	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Craig Wayne Boyd	Jan. 23 '16	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Damon Williams	Dec. 31	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
Dan Bern (\$15)	Jan. 20 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Dark Star Orchestra	Feb. 26 '16	Taft Theatre	Cincinnati
Dark Star Orchestra	Feb. 27 '16	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
Dark Star Orchestra	Feb. 28 '16	LC Pavilion	Columbus, OH
Dark Star Orchestra	Mar. 1 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
Dark Star Orchestra	Mar. 3-4 '16	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Dave Koz w/Jonathan Butler, Candy Duffer, Bill Medley	Dec. 11	The Palladium	Carmel
Dave Koz w/Jonathan Butler, Candy Duffer, Bill Medley	Dec. 12	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
David Phelps	Dec. 13	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Deer Hunter w/Atlas Sound	Dec. 12	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
Deer Hunter w/Atlas Sound	Dec. 13	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Del McCoury Band w/Jeff Austin Band feat. Don Julin, Billy Strings Trio	Jan. 16 '16	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Delbert McClinton (\$50)	Dec. 16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
The DePue Brothers	Dec. 17	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Disturbed	Apr. 7 '16	Saint Andrews Hall	Detroit
Dixie Chicks	June 3 '16	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Donnie Osmond	Jan. 22 '16	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
Dr. Dog	Mar. 11 '16	Saint Andrews Hall	Detroit
Dr. Dog	Mar. 12 '16	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Dr. Dog	Mar. 13 '16	Vogue	Indianapolis
Dropkick Murphys	Feb. 18 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
Ellie Goulding	May 6 '16	Alstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Ellie Goulding	May 7 '16	Wolstein Center	Cleveland
Ellie Goulding	May 10 '16	LC Pavilion	Columbus, OH
Ellie Goulding	May 14 '16	Farm Bureau Insurance Lawn	Indianapolis
Excision w/Bear Grillz, Figure	Mar. 15 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
Experience Hendrix feat. Buddy Guy, Zakk Wylde, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Jonny Lang, Dweezil Zappa, Eric Johnson & more	Mar. 11 '16	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Experience Hendrix	Mar. 12 '16	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Experience Hendrix	Mar. 13 '16	Taft Theatre	Cincinnati
Experience Hendrix	Mar. 15 '16	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
The Fab Four	Feb. 12 '16	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
Fort Wayne Philharmonic	Dec. 20	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Frankie Ballard (sold out)	Dec. 19	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Gaelic Storm	Mar. 11-12 '16	House of Blues	Chicago
Gary Clark Jr.	Apr. 1 '16	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Griffin House (\$15)	Dec. 13	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Henry Rollins	Feb. 13 '16	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Here Come the Mummies	Feb. 26 '16	The Intersection	Grand Rapids
Here Come the Mummies	Mar. 25 '16	Bluebird Nightclub	Bloomington, IN
Hermans Hermits w/The Buckinghams, The Grass Roots	Jan. 30 '16	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
Heweyood Banks (\$25)	Apr. 29 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Home Free	Dec. 12	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Hoodie Allen	Mar. 16 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
Il Volo	Feb. 27 '16	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Il Volo	Feb. 24 '16	State Theatre	Cleveland
Il Volo	Feb. 26 '16	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Iris DeMent (\$35)	Dec. 10	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Jack & Jack w/Daya	Feb. 21 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland

Rock on the Range will celebrate its 10th anniversary the next year and has announced most of the headliners for the three-day rock festival. The event takes place May 20-22 at Crew Stadium in Columbus, Ohio and features **Red Hot Chili Peppers, Disturbed, Five Finger Death Punch, Rob Zombie, Megadeth** and **Shinedown** as some of the headliners. Other acts already announced include **Bring Me the Horizon, Lamb of God, Bullet for My Valentine, Clutch, Steel Panther, Ghost, Trivium, Sevendust**, former **Flyleaf** singer **Lacey Sturm** and about 30 other bands. Tickets are already on sale and will easily sell out.



Road Notez

CHRIS HUPE

One band we are not seeing on the Rock On The Range bill yet is **Slayer**, but you'll still have a chance to see them as they have announced a headlining run of dates starting in mid-February. The trek kicks off with a February 19 show in Chicago and returns to the area with a March 8 show in Columbus, Ohio. **Testament** and **Carcass** open the shows and I'd expect additional dates to be announced soon.

The Boss, **Bruce Springsteen**, released a three-CD set called *The Ties That Bind: The River Collection* last week, giving him the perfect excuse to tour next year. Bringing along the **E Street Band**, Springsteen hits the United Center in Chicago January 19 and Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland February 23. If you go, you'll have the opportunity to download the live shows a day afterward through LiveBruceSpringsteen.net. Tickets for these shows range from \$55 to \$155 and go on sale December 11.

Last year's Super Bowl halftime featuring **Katy Perry** was the most-watched Super Bowl halftime show ever, with 118 million people reportedly tuning in. The show was energetic, visually appealing and chock full of hits that were helped along by a few guest stars as well. The organizers of Super Bowl 50 have decided to go the other way for their halftime show by booking **Coldplay**. Can you say snooze fest? Of all the popular bands out there today, why would you pick the sleepest band on the planet? Their concerts have been tested and proven to be a cure for insomnia, so booking them for the biggest TV spectacle of the year seems like it could be the antithesis of fun. Super Bowl 50 takes place in Santa Clara, California, near San Francisco, so wouldn't it make more sense to book a Bay Area band like, oh, I don't know, one of the biggest bands on the planet that might be named **Metallica**. Or how about **Journey**? The big surprise could be the one-off return of **Steve Perry** on vocals. Even **The Doobie Brothers** would be more fun than freakin' Coldplay. Oh well, I guess I'll be in charge of refilling the nachos and salsa during halftime this year.

christopherhupe@aol.com

Janet Jackson	Jan. 29 '16	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Janet Jackson	Feb. 1 '16	Schottenstein Center	Columbus, OH
Janet Jackson	Feb. 2 '16	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Janet Jackson	Feb. 5 '16	Palace at Auburn Hills	Auburn Hills, MI
Jason Bonham's Led Zeppelin Experience	Dec. 13	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
Jason Isbell	Feb. 19 '16	Murat Theatre	Indianapolis
Jason Isbell w/Shovels & Rope	Feb. 20 '16	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Jason Isbell w/Shovels and Rope (\$27.50-\$55)	Mar. 1 '16	Royal Oak Music Theatre	
Jay Leno	Mar. 3 '16	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Jennifer Nettles w/Brandy Clark, Lindsay Ell, Tara Thompson	Jan. 16 '16	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
Jerry Garcia	Dec. 12	House of Love Ministries	Paulding, OH
Jerry Garcia	Dec. 13	Beaver Chapel Church	Celina, OH
Jerry Garcia	Dec. 13	First Church of God	St. Marys, OH
Jethro Tull	Apr. 7 '16	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Jethro Tull	Apr. 11 '16	Akron Civic Center	Akron, OH
Jim Brickman w/Anne Cochran, Tracy Silverman	Dec. 20	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Joanna Newsom w/Alela Diane, Ryan Francesconi	Dec. 16	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
John Berry	Dec. 13	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
John Gorka (\$20)	Jan. 24 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
John Oliver	Dec. 30	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
John Scofield, Joe Lovano	Feb. 6 '16	The Palladium	Carmel
Johnny A. w/Gene Deer	Dec. 15	The Rathskeller	Indianapolis
Johnny Mathis	May 12 '16	Morris Performing Arts Center	South Bend
Johnny Mathis	May 14 '16	Cloves Memorial Hall	Indianapolis
Jojo	Dec. 16	Magic Bag	Ferdale, MI
Jon Pardi	Jan. 7 '16	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
Jorma Kaukonen (\$30)	Dec. 20	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Josh Groban w/Sarah McLachlan	Aug. 10 '16	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Josh Ritter & The Royal City Band	Jan. 29 '16	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Journey & The Doobie Brothers w/Dave Mason	June 29 '16	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Kaki King (\$20)	Jan. 18 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Kenny G	Dec. 16	MotorCity Casino	Detroit
Killing Joke w/The Soft Moon	Feb. 9 '16	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Ladysmith Black Mambazo (\$45)	Feb. 3 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Ladysmith Black Mambazo (\$45)	Feb. 4 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Lake Street Dive	Mar. 14 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
Lamb of God w/Anthrax, Deafheaven, Power Trip	Jan. 28 '16	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Lamb of God w/Anthrax, Deafheaven, Power Trip	Jan. 29 '16	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
Lamb of God w/Anthrax, Deafheaven, Power Trip	Jan. 30 '16	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Lamb of God w/Anthrax, Deafheaven, Power Trip	Jan. 31 '16	Orbit Room	Grand Rapids
Leo Kottke	Apr. 16 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Leon Bridges	Mar. 11 '16	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Lewis Black	May 20 '16	State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Libera	Apr. 3 '16	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio

Calendar • On the Road

LoCash	Dec. 31	8 Seconds Saloon	Indianapolis
Lucy Kaplansky (\$20)	May 7 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Lupe Fiasco	Feb. 12 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
Machine Gun Kelly	Dec. 20-21	House of Blues	Cleveland
Mannheim Steamroller	Dec. 13	Aronoff Center	Cincinnati
Mannheim Steamroller	Dec. 18	Fox Theatre	Detroit
March On w/Comrade, Barky & Speaker, Eric McMiller and the Clashville Sound	Dec. 10	Brass Rail	Fort Wayne
Marlon Wayans	Feb. 5 '16	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
Maroon 5 w/Tove Lo, R. City	Sept. 28 '16	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Maroon 5 w/Tove Lo, R. City	Sept. 29 '16	U.S. Bank Arena	Cincinnati
Mo Alexander w/Andy Benigo	Dec. 18-19	Snickerz Comedy Bar	Fort Wayne
Muse	Jan. 14 '16	Joe Louis Arena	Detroit
Mustard's Retreat (\$20)	Feb. 26 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Natalie Grant	Mar. 20 '16	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, OH
Neil Zaza	Dec. 12	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
Oak Ridge Boys	Dec. 20	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
Oak Ridge Boys	Apr. 23 '16	The Palladium	Carmel
Parquet Courts	Feb. 16 '16	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Patty Larkin (\$20)	Mar. 24 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
The Piano Guys	Mar. 12 '16	State Theatre	Cleveland
The Piano Guys	Mar. 14 '16	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Pink Droyd	Feb. 6 '16	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
R5 w/Ryland	Mar. 10 '16	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
The Ragbirds (\$20)	Dec. 11-12	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Railroad Earth w/Horseshoes & Hand Grenades	Dec. 30	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Railroad Earth w/Commeal	Dec. 31	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Railroad Earth	Jan. 29 '16	Vogue	Indianapolis
Ratt	Dec. 26	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
Richard Marx	Feb. 5 '16	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Riders in the Sky	Apr. 15 '16	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Robert Gordon	Jan. 23 '16	Magic Bag	Ferdale, MI
Robin Trower	May 6 '16	State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Rodriguez	Dec. 11	State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Ron White	Feb. 25 '16	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Russ Williamson w/Ken Garr	Dec. 11-12	Snickerz Comedy Bar	Fort Wayne
Rusted Root	Jan. 7 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
Ryan Bingham	Jan. 28 '16	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Shawn Colvin (\$40-\$65)	Feb. 16 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Siegel-Schwall Band	Dec. 18	Magic Bag	Ferdale, MI
Sleep	Jan. 26-27 '16	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Steel Panther	Dec. 12	House of Blues	Cleveland
Stephen Kellogg (\$17-\$20)	Feb. 23 '16	The Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Steve Lippia	Feb. 5 '16	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Steve Poltz, Grant-Lee Phillips (\$20)	Feb. 9 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Straight No Chaser	Dec. 11-13	Murat	Indianapolis
STS9	Feb. 13 '16	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
STS9	Feb. 14 '16	House of Blues	Chicago
Sylvia McNair	May 20 '16	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Temptations	Apr. 24 '16	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
The Tenors	Jan. 23 '16	Cloves Memorial Hall	Indianapolis
The Texas Tenors	Apr. 17 '16	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
They Might Be Giants	Mar. 20 '16	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Todd Rundgren	Dec. 10	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
Tommy Emmanuel	Feb. 14 '16	DeVos Performance Hall	Grand Rapids
Tommy Emmanuel (\$40)	Feb. 24 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Tori Kelly w/Alex Angelo, Becky G, Max	Dec. 10	Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW	Fort Wayne
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 26	Schottenstein Center	Columbus, OH
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 28	Alstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 29	Palace of Auburn Hills	Auburn Hills, MI
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 30	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Turtle Island Quartet w/Cyrus Chestnut	Apr. 1 '16	Cloves Memorial Hall	Indianapolis
Underoath	Apr. 7 '16	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Vance Joy w/Reuben and the Dark	Jan. 22-23 '16	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
The Verve Pipe w/Crashing Cairo	Dec. 12	Magic Bag	Ferdale, MI
The Waifs (\$30)	Apr. 27 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
The Waiters	Jan. 14 '16	House of Blues	Chicago
Warren Haynes and The Ashes & Dust Band	Feb. 26 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
The Wellington International Ukulele Orchestra	Mar. 3 '16	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Who's Bad	Apr. 1 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
Widespread Panic	Feb. 21 '16	Murat Theatre	Indianapolis
Wizards of Winter feat. Ted Nugent and Greg Smith	Dec. 11	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Wizards of Winter feat. Ted Nugent and Greg Smith	Dec. 12	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Wizards of Winter feat. Ted Nugent and Greg Smith	Dec. 20	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Wynonna & The Big Noise	Feb. 4 '16	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH

Road Tripz

BackWater	Dec. 12-19.....	Cowboy Up, Mendon, MI
Big Dick and the Penetrators	Dec. 12.....	The Hideaway, Gas City, IN
Cap'n Bob, The Singin' Skipper	July 30.....	Sunshower Bike Rally, Centerville, IN
Hubie Ashcraft Band	Dec. 31.....	Heritage Retirement Community, Nappanee
	Dec. 11.....	The Old Crow, Chicago

Ratnip	Dec. 18-19.....	Cowboy Up, Mendon, MI
Fort Wayne Area Performers:	Dec. 31.....	Eagles Post 2246, Montpelier, OH
<i>To get your gigs on this list, give us a call at 691-3188, fax your info to 691-3191, e-mail info.whatzup@gmail.com or mail to whatzup, 2305 E. Esterline Rd., Columbia City, IN 46725.</i>		

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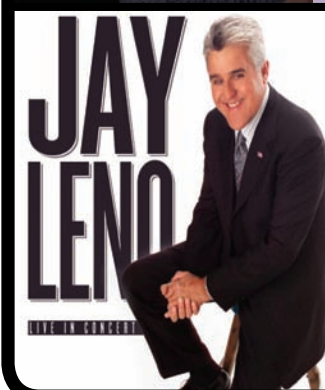
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Guys, Take Your Ladies to See *Brooklyn*

Thank whatever higher power you recognize for the wonderful *Brooklyn*, a romantic and uplifting tale of coming to the United States. Or just go enjoy a film that relies not on intervention by a higher power, but the wits and humanity of its characters. Thousands of women have lived the life of Eilish, the young woman who leaves Ireland hoping for a better life in America.

I delighted in every detail of her careful navigation of her new world, the post war delights of a borough in New York City. The dream of America has never looked so good and so possible.

Brooklyn is directed by John Crowley from a screenplay adapted by Nick Hornby (*About a Boy*, *High Fidelity*) from the novel by Colm Toibin. The story is lovely, told with minimal sentimentality, but drenched to saturation in real feeling. This is a common sense fairy tale propelled by delightful, well-intentioned characters.

Brooklyn has a lot in common with old-fashioned Hollywood tales celebrating the promise of America, but it is a welcome update from old storylines. Eilish leaves Ireland, but she isn't fleeing hideous poverty or abuse. She, courtesy of the strength and support of her sister and mother, just wants greater opportunity. What is America? For Eilish and so many young women it is a place of opportunity, a place where it is "possible to talk to people who don't know your auntie."

Saoirse Roan is perfectly cast as Eilish. She looks the part and is bold and subtle in her performance. Oscar-nominated for her



Flix

CATHERINE LEE

role in *Atonement*, she's now a grown-up talent. Her every glance, move and gesture in *Brooklyn* shows us how thoughtful Eilish is.

She meets those who would tear her down on her journey, but they are outnumbered by good people. Ladies on the boat give her tips on how to get through customs. She lives in a boarding house presided over by a tough-talking but warm-hearted mistress, a plum role for Julie Walters. The house is filled with girls who help each other.

Outside the house, she has supporters. Her priest, played by Jim Broadbent, is the kind of priest priests are supposed to be. At work, her boss keeps an eye on her. Jessica Pare (*Mad Men*) makes Miss Fortini a very hot den mother.

Miserably homesick at first, this support network helps Eilish find some comfort in her new life. She takes classes in book-keeping to improve her prospects. Then she meets Tony Fiorello. Emory Cohen makes this nearly impossibly stereotypical Italian-American character so appealing, the idea that he might not live happily ever after with Eilish is heartbreaking.

Tragedy at home sends Eilish back to the Old Country, and once there, much tugs at her very tender heartstrings. Top among the temptations is Jim Farrell, a homegrown

honey as appealing as any suitor could be. Domhnall Gleeson affably shrugs his way through this role.

The differences between Ireland and Brooklyn are shown with great affection for both places. The most poignant contrast is the beach.

The sublime emptiness and peace of the Irish beach is stunning. The privacy is appealing and nothing like Coney Island.

Tony's family is hoping to build a few houses on an empty piece of land on Long Island, as empty as the beach in Ireland. We know that for better and worse the American Dream will build on those empty fields. It is nearly impossible not to hope that Eilish and Tony will make a life together.

Eilish and her like bred the glories of our culture. She is a smart, loving human given the opportunity to be more here. As I write this I am seeing the "arriving in America" picture of two newlywed coward murderers on the television. Haters gonna hate, and they look like the product of a grim, narrow ideology that can only recruit the ignorant and miserable.

Brooklyn should be seen by everyone, but especially by girls of all ages (particularly us old girls), ethnicity, faiths and aspirations. Gentlemen, take your ladies. I love a good chick flick that respects men. Given the opportunity, what men or women (in any happy pairing, cross or same gender) wouldn't say (paraphrasing from another NYC romance) "We'll have what they're having."

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Mockingjay's Half a Billion Not Enough

Tops at the Box: Director Francis Lawrence's *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2* once again took the No. 1 spot at the U.S. box office, selling another \$18.6 million over the chilly weekend, upping the movie's 17-day total to \$227 million in the U.S. and \$523 million worldwide. Yeah, sure, that's a lot of money, but nowhere near what was expected for the *Hunger Games* conclusion. Not a bad movie, though. But also not near the *Harry Potter* or *Lord of the Rings* level as far as big conclusions go. Something tells me that star Jennifer Lawrence doesn't care, as her upcoming performance in David O. Russell's *Joy* is getting serious Oscar buzz.

Also at the Box: *Trick 'r Treat* director Michael Dougherty's latest holiday horror comedy, *Krampus*, took the No. 2 spot, selling a solid \$16 million over its first three days of release despite some heavy competition. Not only does the film look really fun, it looks incredibly well made. Can't wait to see this one, despite some poor reviews.

Ryan Coogler's Rocky re-boot/sequel/sister film, *Creed*, took the No. 3 spot, selling another \$15.5 million and bringing the flick's 10-day U.S. total to an impressive \$65 million. As discussed last week, I'm a big Rocky fan. Huge, even. I let myself get excited about *Creed* because of the combination of Coogler and leading actor Michael



ScreenTime

GREG W. LOCKE

B. Jordan, and then I saw the film, and it's great. Well, it's very good, and very much worth seeing. I've read all the buzz about Sylvester Stallone getting a Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his performance, but I think it's Jordan who should be getting the buzz. Not only did he give an authentic, brave, nuanced performance in a franchise known for being over-the-top, but his physicality was about as impressive as anything I've seen this year. That's a part of performance, too.

Taking the No. 4 spot at last weekend's box office was Peter Sohn's new animated film, *The Good Dinosaur*, voiced by Frances McDormand, Steve Zahn and Jeffrey Wright (whom I've seen walking around Brooklyn three or four times). The movie sold \$15 million, bringing its 10-day total to just under \$76 million. Not bad, especially when you consider that *The Peanuts Movie* is still doing well and taking a lot of the kiddie bucks. Rounding out last weekend's Top 5 in the U.S. was *Spectre*, which sold another \$5 million, bringing the Bond film's five-week total to \$185 million in the U.S. and just un-

der \$800 million worldwide. Whoa, Bond.

New This Week: Ron Howard's *In the Heart of the Sea* will open wide this week and, I predict, flop. It's a big, expensive film starring Chris Hemsworth, Benjamin Walker, Cillian Murphy, Ben Whishaw and Brendan Gleeson. The trailer looks ho-hum, and the reviews have been very rocky thus far. Originally slated to be Warner Bros. big awards season film, now it just feels like they're dumping the thing out there, hoping to make some holiday dollars. Oh how the great have fallen.

This time of year we mostly get smaller indie films and, of course, the big awards season films. Then, on or around Christmas Day, we get several very promising movies. Here are some of the flicks to look forward to over the next couple of weeks: Quentin Tarantino's *The Hateful Eight*, David O. Russell's *Joy*, Adam McKay's *The Big Short*, Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's *The Revenant* (the film I'm most excited to see, as the trailer is beautifully shot), indie stand-out *Son of Saul* and, of course, the movie of all movies, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, which many are predicting could go down as the biggest box office success since the first *Star Wars* film.

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Featured Events

FORT WAYNE DANCE WINTER WORKSHOPS COLLECTIVE — Workshops and classes for movement, dance, yoga and more offered by Fort Wayne Dance Collective, **dates and times vary**, Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Fort Wayne, fees vary, 424-6574

IPFW COMMUNITY ARTS ACADEMY — Art, dance, music and theater classes for grades pre-K through 12 offered by IPFW College of Visual and Performing Arts, fees vary, 481-6977, www.ipfw.edu/caa

SWEETWATER ACADEMY OF MUSIC — Private lessons for a variety of instruments available from professional instructors, ongoing weekly lessons, Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, call for pricing, 432-8176, academy.sweetwater.com

This Week

GIRLS PINT OUT — Presentation of *Her Story of Hops* and tapas-style dinner and beer pairing **6 p.m. Thursday Dec. 10**, Mad Anthony Brewing Company, Fort Wayne, \$20, 426-2537

Holiday Events

FANTASY OF LIGHTS — Drive-thru holiday light event featuring over 70 animated light displays depicting holiday scenes; horse drawn carriage rides available Friday-Sunday, **6-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursdays and 6-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday thru Dec. 31**, Franke Park, Fort Wayne, \$5 per car, \$10 per 15 passenger van, \$25 per bus or trolley, 744-1900

FESTIVAL OF GINGERBREAD — Over 100 gingerbread creations, games, storytelling and visits from Santa, **Thursday, Dec. 10 and 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13**, History Center, Fort Wayne, \$4-\$6, 426-2882

NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS — Coats for Kids coat drive featuring flash-light only ghost hunt through the Haunted Jail, **7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17; 7-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday Dec. 18-19 and 7-9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20**, Columbia City Haunted Jail, Columbia City, admission is a gently used or new coat or \$13, www.columbiacityhauntedjail.com

SANTA AND THE REINDEER — Visit with Santa and live reindeer and tour the conservatory gardens, **12-4 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19**, Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, 427-6440

STAR OF BETHLEHEM — 90 minute planetarium program following the path of the Wise Men in 3 B.C., **7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11; 3 & 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12; 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18; 3 & 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19 and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20**, Schouweiler Planetarium, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$4, \$14 family max., 399-8050

WALK TO BETHLEHEM — Guided tours depicting the scenes from Jesus' birth featuring live nativity, marketplace, Roman soldiers, a potter, wool spinner and other characters of the time, **5:30-7:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 12-13**, First Christian Church, Fort Wayne, free, 744-3239

Storytimes

STORYTIMES, ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS AT ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY:

ABOITE BRANCH — Born to Read Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Mondays**, Smart Start Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Tuesdays**, Baby Steps, **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays**, 421-1320

A Claim on the Wright Brothers

Air travel has become so routine, such a standard part of our lives, that it's hard to conceive of a world where it didn't exist. That may be why so many love to lay claim to the legacy of Orville and Wilbur Wright.

While North Carolina can rightfully (wrightfully?) demonstrate their role in the invention of the first airplane, what with Kitty Hawk and all those test flights that took place there, Ohio is also quick to point out that they too have some claim to glory since the Brothers were living in Dayton, Ohio during their early days of exploring the notion of flight.

Ultimately it was decided that both North Carolina and Ohio can tout their affiliation with the Wrights, and those claims have been proudly displayed in the best possible way — through their state license plates. While North Carolina can declare themselves "First in Flight," Ohio gets to chime in with "Birthplace of Aviation." Everyone's happy.

But Indiana gets a little piece of the pie, too, when talking about the famous inventors. Although Orville was born in Dayton, Wilbur was born in Millville, Indiana, and the family later spent time in Richmond, moving back to Dayton in 1884. The move actually meant Wilbur missed his own high school graduation, so his diploma was later sent to him.

That Hoosier connection may or may not be significant to some, but it makes the upcoming exhibit at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, a collection of Wright Brothers photographs by William Preston Mayfield, even more interesting. The photographic reproductions, which range from 1908 until the late 1950s, capture the Wright family as well as many of



Fare Warning
Michele DeVinney

their early trials in their pursuit of flight. The photos serve to document the persistence and tenacity of the brothers as they forge ahead with their plans and see their invention come to fruition. Mayfield served as their official photographer, showing that they not only had a pretty good handle on engineering but also on marketing and legacy. The exhibit runs from December 5 through February 21, 2016.

If you catch the Wright Brother exhibit between December 12 and January 24, you can also catch another intriguing exhibit, *The Art of Seating*. While chairs may be something we take for granted, pretty much hoping they keep us comfy and off the floor, the chair can be both functional and ornamental. The exhibit will feature some of the more unique examples, something a little more tantalizing than your basic La-Z-Boy. Examples will range from early 19th century until present day, providing a different take on an American classic.

Information about membership and admission prices can be found at fwmoa.org, but it's worth noting that there's free admission every Thursday from 5-8 p.m. and \$1 admission the last Saturday of each month. And if you visit in December, you may as well check out the Paradigm Gallery and do a little holiday shopping!

michele.whatzup@gmail.com

Sports and Recreation

CHILI CHALLENGE BIKE RIDE — Off-road, Greenway and city street bike riding; helmets required, **1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 1**, departs from Psi Ote lower pavilion, Bob Arnold Park, Fort Wayne, free, 797-3364

Spectator Sports

BASKETBALL

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS — Exhibition basketball, **2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 3**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$18-\$75, 483-1111

MAD ANTS — Upcoming home games at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne
SATURDAY, DEC. 12 vs. Iowa, 7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, DEC. 22 vs. Reno, 7 p.m.
SUNDAY, DEC. 27 vs. Sioux Falls, 5 p.m.
SATURDAY, JAN. 2 vs. Iowa, 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, JAN. 28 vs. Canton, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY, JAN. 30 vs. Maine, 7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, FEB. 2 vs. Maine, 7 p.m.
FRIDAY, FEB. 5 vs. Canton, 7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, FEB. 9 vs. Delaware, 7 p.m.
TUESDAY, FEB. 16 vs. Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
THURSDAY, FEB. 25 vs. Westchester, 7 p.m.
SUNDAY, FEB. 28 vs. Iowa, 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 9 vs. Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
FRIDAY, MAR. 11 vs. Westchester, 7:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, MAR. 12 vs. Sioux Falls, 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, MAR. 20 vs. Grand Rapids, 5 p.m.
TUESDAY, MAR. 22 vs. Sioux Falls, 7 p.m.

Tours and Trips

FORT WAYNE SKI CLUB SKI TRIPS — Ski trips to Whistler Mountain, Bittersweet, Swiss Valley, Lake Tahoe and more, **dates vary**, locations vary, departs from Fort Wayne, prices vary, more information available at www.fwsc.org

CHICAGO SHOPPING TRIP — Bus trip to downtown Chicago for holiday shopping, **7 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12**, departs from Bob Arnold Park, Fort Wayne, \$55, 427-6017

WHITE CHRISTMAS: THE MUSICAL — Chicago bus trip to see the Irving Berlin classic performed at the Drury Theatre; lunch and continental breakfast included, **7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10**, departs from Bob Arnold Park, Fort Wayne, \$99, 427-6017

DETROIT AUTO SHOW — Bus trip to view over 500 cars, new and late model, **7:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16**, departs from Bob Arnold Park, Fort Wayne, \$59, 427-6017

ZEHNDRER'S SNOWFEST — Bus trip to Frankenmuth, MI to watch ice carvers from around the world; lunch at Zehnder's Restaurant, **8 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30**, departs from Bob Arnold Park, Fort Wayne, \$85, 427-6017

DUPONT BRANCH — Smart Start Storytime for ages 3-5, **1:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, 421-1315

GEORGETOWN BRANCH — Born to Read Storytime, **10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mondays**, Baby Steps, **10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tuesdays**, Smart Start Storytime, **10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Thursdays**, 421-1320

GRABILL BRANCH — Born to Read, **10:30 a.m. Tuesdays**, Smart Start Storytime **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays**, 421-1325

HESSEN CASSEL BRANCH — Stories, songs and finger-plays for the whole family, **6:30 p.m. Tuesdays**, 421-1330

LITTLE TURTLE BRANCH — Storytime for preschoolers, **10:30 a.m. Mondays and Tuesdays**, 421-1335
MAIN LIBRARY — Babies and Books, **10 a.m. Fridays**; Family Story Time, **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays**; Storytime for preschoolers, daycares and other groups, **9:30 a.m. Wednesdays**; Toddler Time, **10:30 & 11 a.m. Fridays**; 421-1220

NEW HAVEN BRANCH — Babies and books for kids birth to age 2, **10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, 421-1345

PONTIAC BRANCH — Teen cafe **4 p.m. Tuesdays**, Smart Start Storytime for preschoolers, **10:30 a.m. Fridays**, 421-1350

TECUMSEH BRANCH — Smart Start Storytime for kids age 3-6, **10:30 a.m. Tuesdays**, YA Day for teens **3:30 p.m. Wednesdays**, Wonderdots reading for ages 1-3, **10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, 421-1360

SHAWNEE BRANCH — Born to Read for babies and toddlers, **10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, Smart Start Storytime for preschoolers, **11 a.m. Thursdays**, 421-1355

FRIDAY, APR. 1 vs. Erie, 7:30 p.m.

HOCKEY

KOMETES — Upcoming home games at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne
FRIDAY, DEC. 11 vs. Indy, 8 p.m.
SUNDAY, DEC. 13 vs. Evansville, 5 p.m.
FRIDAY, DEC. 18 vs. Manchester, 8 p.m.
SATURDAY, DEC. 19 vs. Brampton, 7:30 p.m.
MONDAY, DEC. 21 vs. Gwinnett, 7:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, DEC. 26 vs. Kalamazoo, 7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, DEC. 29 vs. Brampton, 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, DEC. 31 vs. Indy, 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY, JAN. 15 vs. Orlando, 8 p.m.
SATURDAY, JAN. 16 vs. Rapid City, 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, JAN. 17 vs. Rapid City, 5 p.m.
FRIDAY, JAN. 29 vs. Cincinnati, 8 p.m.
SATURDAY, FEB. 6 vs. Quad City, 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY, FEB. 19 vs. Toledo, 8 p.m.
SUNDAY, FEB. 21 vs. Colorado, 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24 vs. Missouri, 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY, FEB. 26 vs. Missouri, 8 p.m.
SATURDAY, FEB. 27 vs. Tulsa, 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY, MAR. 18 vs. Quad City, 8 p.m.
SATURDAY, MAR. 19 vs. Quad City, 7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 23 vs. Wheeling, 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY, MAR. 25 vs. Toledo, 8 p.m.
SATURDAY, MAR. 26 vs. Evansville, 7:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, APR. 2 vs. Indy, 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, APR. 3 vs. Evansville, 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, APR. 6 vs. Quad City, 7:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, APR. 9 vs. Indy, 7:30 p.m.

Dance

MONTHLY DANCE — Fort Wayne Dancesport's monthly dance, **8-11 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 12**, Walb Classic Ballroom, IPFW, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$10, 348-6205

CONTRA DANCE — Dancing to old-time swing music by The Spy Run String Band and live caller, no partner necessary, **8-11 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19**, Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Fort Wayne, \$6-\$9, 244-1905

December

TRAIN TOWN SHOW AND SWAP MEET — Over 150 tables of model and railroad, toy train and train memorabilia along with Lego® train display and model railroad layouts, **10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19**, Merchants Building, Allen County Fairground, Fort Wayne, \$5, under 12 free, 567-259-3340

COMMUNITY KWANZAA CELEBRATION — Family event featuring live music, dance, poetry and a meal, **6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29**, Weissner Park Youth Center, Fort Wayne, free, 427-6784

SIGNATURE GIVING'S NEW YEAR'S EVE MASQUERADE BALL — Charity event featuring live music from Heartbeat City, dinner buffet, dancing, prizes and a champagne toast to benefit Whitley County two-year and vocational scholars, **7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31**, The Van Buren, Columbia City, \$60 individual, \$100 couple, 609-5378

Now Playing

Disney's PETER PAN — Musical adaptation featuring Peter Pan, Wendy, Tinkerbell, Captain Hook and the rest of the Neverland crew, **8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 10-12**, Pulse Opera House, Warren, \$5-\$14, 357-7017

EXIT LAUGHING — Three southern ladies lose a friend and a bridge partner and decided to take her ashes from the funeral home for one last bridge game which quickly becomes the most exciting night of their lives, **8 p.m. (7 p.m., dinner) Friday-Saturday, Dec. 11-12; 2 p.m. (1 p.m., dinner) Sunday, Dec. 13 and 8 p.m. (7 p.m., dinner) Friday-Saturday, Dec. 18-19**, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$35, includes dinner and show, 424-5622

HOLIDAZE — Fort Wayne Youtheatre's musical revue of the pageantry, shopping, family gatherings and madness of the season, **7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11; 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 12-13; 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18 and 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 19-20**, First Presbyterian Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$12-\$18, 422-4226

NUTCRACKER — Fort Wayne Ballet's performance of the Tchaikovsky classic, **7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11; 2:30 & 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13** Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, \$17-\$49, 422-4226

ROGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA — The Tony Award-winning musical that is a contemporary take on the classic fairy tale, **8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 11-12; 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 18-19; 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20**, Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts, Warsaw, \$14-\$32, 574-267-8041

RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER: THE MUSICAL — Classic holiday story, a Broadway production, **7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$28-\$53 thru Ticketmaster and Embassy box office, 424-5665

THE SANTALAND DIARIES — David Sedaris' account of working as an elf at Macy's Santaland in New York City during the holiday crunch, **10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12; 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19**, First Presbyterian Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$12-\$20, 422-6329

SCONES & CRACKERS, HOLIDAY IN LONDON - CLASS RECITAL — Dance recital featuring iconic themes of Great Britain performed by Fort Wayne Dance Collective students ages 3-60, **7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12**, at South Side High School, Fort Wayne, \$13-\$15, 424-6574

SUPPER CLUB HOLIDAY SHOW — Retro Vegas-style crooner entertainment with holiday themed buffet, **6:30 p.m. (dinner), 7:30 p.m. (show), Thursday-Sunday Dec. 10-13 and Dec. 18-20**, Huntington Supper Club, Huntington, \$35 (show only), \$49 (includes dinner & show) thru box office 454-0603

Asides

AUDITIONS

WIT (MARCH 3-19) — Casting for 4 men and 4 women ages 20-60, **7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, 422-6329

RUBY BRIDGES (FEB. 5-8) — Auditions for adults and children, **4-6 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Jan. 5-6**, Fort Wayne Youtheatre, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, 422-8641

Upcoming Productions

JANUARY 2016

TWO PLAYS ON A BENCH — Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story* and David Mamet's *The Duck Variations*, each involving two men sitting on a park bench, **7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 14-16; 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 22-23; 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24; 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 29-30**, First Presbyterian Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$12-\$20, 422-6329

ROMEO AND JULIET — Full-length three act ballet performed by The State Ballet Theatre of Russia, **7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$28-\$58 thru Ticketmaster and Embassy box office, 424-5665

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) [REVISED] — Fast paced, witty comedy featuring three actors and all 37 of Shakespeare's plays revised for 21st century audiences, **7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. curtain, Friday-Saturday, Jan. 22-23, 29-30, Feb. 5-6**, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$35 (includes dinner & show), 424-5622

A Little Christmas Sneer



Curtain Call

KEVIN SMITH

THE SANTALAND DIARIES

10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11 & 18
7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 & 19
First Presbyterian Theater
300 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne
Tix: \$12-\$20, 260-422-6329

Because of Christmas, December is a strange month. As the holiday season seems to grow longer each year, a fact about which many of us complain, various traditions that once delighted can come to annoy, a possibility that becomes increasingly likely the closer we come to December 25. I was realizing this as I unboxed decorations and found myself thinking one little object or another was kind of dumb or ugly but also thought "this goes up somewhere because it has always been a part of Christmas at my house, dammit." It is what it is, and we do what we've always done because we've always done it.

Stories of many of the smaller traditions that go into a visit to see a stranger dressed as Santa Claus at one over-crowded store or another were chronicled in a creative non-fiction essay by David Sedaris called *The Santaland Diaries*. It describes in great and hilarious detail how Sedaris came to put on an elf costume one winter at Macy's Santaland in New York City. A staged version is now at First Presbyterian Theater through December 19.

I have to say that one holiday tradition I've come to accept but not wholeheartedly embrace is the "Christmas play" I generally have to review. Some are over-the-top cheesy and almost drip with sugary nostalgia. However, when I saw that I would be able to see FPT's production of the Sedaris story (adapted by Joe Mantello), I was relieved.

The plot of the 70-minute one-act play begins with Sedaris stumbling upon a want ad for the job of elf in the newspaper. After a rigorous ap-

Continued on page 19

Get Your Move On



Fort Wayne
Dance collective

Register for Winter/Spring classes online at fwdc.org or by calling 260.424.6574



Arena Dinner Theatre
presents



Nov. 27-Dec. 19, 2015

Directed by Brian H. Wagner

Produced through special
arrangement with
Dramatic Publishing

Call theatre or visit online for
showtimes and ticket information.

Arena Dinner Theatre
719 Rockhill St., Fort Wayne
(260) 424-5622
arenadinnertheatre.org

Escaping the Madness

"Aaaaargh!!!" That line from Youtheatre's *Holidaze* pretty much sums up the season for a lot of people! Black Friday madness, stress, crowds, lines, busy schedules, the inundation of holiday ads — buy! buy! buy! And don't forget forced socialization with family (it's okay, if you don't enjoy all of your family). How do we get it all done? Can we afford this? Where will we celebrate the holidays? It's pretty comical when you look at all of the frenzy that takes place during the months of November and December!

That's Youtheatre's take. *Holidaze: A Survivor's Guide to the Season*, an original musical revue celebrating all of the madness of the holidays, is a collection of vignettes all too familiar to audiences. Like most writers, I pulled from a lot of my own experiences. The overworked mommies, the overtaxed daddies, the rowdy children, the "going crazy" director of the obligatory Christmas pageant — sound familiar?

How lucky I was to have some of the city's finest performers sharing the stage with a horde of Youtheatre children. Partnering children with adults on a stage is always a win-win exchange of perspectives and incredible mentoring. *Holidaze* is literally a who's who of theatre veterans. Leslie Beauchamp, who will knock your socks off with her vocals,

Continued on page 19



Director's Notes

LESLIE HORMANN

HOLIDAZE

FORT WAYNE YOUTHEATRE

7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11 & 18

2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec.
12-13 & 19-20

First Presbyterian Theater

300 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne

Tix.: \$12-\$18, 260-422-6900

www.fortwayneyoutheatre.org

Current Exhibits

10TH REGIONAL EXHIBITION AWARD

WINNERS — Works by Jeremy Stroup, Trevor Rush and John Myers on display, **Tuesday-Sunday, Dec. 11-Jan. 13**, (opening reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, with Artists' Talk at 6:45 p.m.) Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

ANGELA ELLSWORTH — Prints on display, **Tuesday-Sunday, Dec. 11-Jan. 13**, (opening reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11), Betty Fishman Gallery, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

ART CLUB — Artwork by students from the Art Club outreach program on display, **Tuesday-Sunday, Dec. 11-Jan. 13**, (opening reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11), Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

ART FARM HOLIDAY POP UP GALLERY — Feat. 13 national and local artists offering ceramics, jewelry, fiber, metal, glass, mixed media, **thru Dec. 27**, 17612 N. County Line Rd E, Spencerville. 740-8725

ART FOR THE HOLIDAYS — Handmade ornaments and nativities, **Monday-Saturday thru Dec. 31**, Orchard Gallery of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 436-0927

THE ART OF SEATING — A survey of American chair design from the early 19th century to the present day, **Tuesday-Sunday, Dec. 12-Jan. 24**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$5-\$7 (members, free), 422-6467

ART YOU CAN USE — Works of clay, oil, fiber, wood and more, **Tuesday-Saturday thru Jan. 15**, Crestwoods Frame Shop & Gallery, Roanoke, 672-2080

BLOOD, SWEAT, AND PIXELS: FALL 2015 BFA EXHIBITION — IPFW Senior thesis works, **Wednesday-Sunday, Dec. 11-Dec. 27**, (artist reception, 6-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11) Wunderkammer Company, Fort Wayne, \$2, 417-8846

CAROL POPP BENNETT & SARAH THOMPSON — Acrylic paintings, "Carol and Corky" TV nostalgia and pottery, **Sunday-Friday thru Jan. 10**, First Presbyterian Art Gallery, First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, 426-7421

CASTLE GALLERY HOLIDAY SHOW — Local and national artists, **Tuesday-Saturday and by appointment thru Jan. 2**, Castle Gallery Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 426-6568

DAVID CARPENTER — Figure drawings and still life images, **Wednesday-Sunday, Dec. 11-Dec. 27**, (artist reception, 6-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11) Wunderkammer Company, Fort Wayne, \$2, 417-8846

FROM THE COLLECTION — Mixed art works, **Sunday-Thursday thru Jan. 9**, Langhinrichs Art Gallery, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Fort Wayne, 744-1867

GARDEN IN LIGHTS — All garden areas decorated for the holidays, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Jan. 3**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5 (2 and under, free), 427-6440

HIGH SCHOOL ART COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION — High school student work on display, **daily, thru Dec. 12**, Visual Arts Gallery, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 481-6705

JOHN LEAVELL — Acrylic, large-canvas works, **Saturdays, thru Dec. 31**, The Gallery at Prana Yoga, Fort Wayne, 627-9642

MAURICE PAPIER: A RETROSPECTIVE — Over 70 pieces by Papier and dozens of paintings by his former students, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Jan. 15**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

MEMORIAL PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL — Student works on display, **Tuesday-Sunday, Dec. 11-Jan. 13**, (opening reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11), Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

NANCY FRITZ — Vibrant paintings centering primarily on motif of the mandala, **Wednesday-Sunday, Dec. 11-Dec. 27**, (artist reception, 6-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11) Wunderkammer Company, Fort Wayne, \$2, 417-8846

THE NATIONAL: BEST CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY 2015 — Contemporary photography from invited and juried artists, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Jan. 3**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$5-\$7 (members, free), 422-6467

"A NORTH WOODS CHRISTMAS" GARDEN EXHIBIT — A rustic setting feat. a cabin during the holidays, **Tuesday-Sunday, thru Jan. 3**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5 (2 and under, free), 427-6440

OBJECT STRANGE — Ball State Architecture exhibition, **Wednesday-Sunday, Dec. 11-Dec. 27**, (artist reception, 6-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11) Wunderkammer Company, Fort Wayne, \$2, 417-8846

SOCAL STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS: COMPUTER ART, ANIMATION, AND FILM — Works by current students, **daily, thru Dec. 20**, Goldfish Gallery, Mimi and Ian Rolland Art & Visual Communication Center, Univ. of St. Francis, Fort Wayne, 399-7999

USF ALUMNI/FACULTY EXHIBITION — Works of alumni and graduates and by current and retired faculty from the School of Creative Arts, **daily, thru Dec. 20**, John P. Weatherhead Gallery, Mimi and Ian Rolland Art and Visual Communication Center, Univ. of St. Francis, Fort Wayne, 399-7999

WRIGHT BROTHERS PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM PRESTON MAYFIELD — Collection of works from Orville and Wilbur Wright's personal photographer, **Tuesday-Sunday, thru Feb. 21**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$5-\$7 (members, free), 422-6467

Artifacts

SPECIAL EVENTS

2ND THURSDAY IN THE PARADIGM GALLERY — Susan & Steven Shaikh combine Indian style with contemporary in jewelry featuring silversmithing and gemstones, 5-7:30 p.m. **Thursday, Dec. 10**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, free, 422-6467

Upcoming Exhibits

JANUARY

ANN JOHNSON & WILLIAM STEFFEN — Paintings, paper mache and woodworking, **Sunday-Friday, Jan. 15-Feb. 21** (opening reception, 5:30-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15), First Presbyterian Art Gallery, First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, 426-7421

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SANTALAND - From Page 18

production process, he has to assume an elf name for his time assisting many a lucky actor playing the leading role of Santa Claus. He chooses "Crumpet." So, we see Sedaris/Crumpet battle various little bits of ridiculousness as he grudgingly wears his goofy costume for one of countless specific elfin roles until he is able to return it and move on.

In this one-person play, Kevin Torwelle is just right. Fortunately, he doesn't attempt to mimic the distinct voice of Sedaris that many have come to know through hearing it so frequently on NPR. As Crumpet, he delivers lines perfectly, and his expressive face serves well in this production.

My only minor complaint has nothing to do with FPT's production, but comes instead from the final

bits of dialog, which are original to Sedaris' story. To me, the last bit of any play is critical in determining the feeling audience members have as they exit a theater. I'm certainly not a prude, but I wish the final lines had been a bit different.

Other than that, despite the darker parts of the human soul shown during the "happiest time of the year" in this play, it is strangely a "feel good" play, or at least it was for my friends and me.

As December and its stressors come on quickly and more than enough Christmas songs are being played on radio stations and in shops, I appreciated the chance to see something fresh and hilarious and being able to skip Christmas revues. You will, too.

lkmsmith@frontier.com

HOLIDAZE - From Page 18

is joined by a delightfully entertaining posse: Eileen Claypool Ahlersmeyer, Emily Arata, Heather Closson, Maggie Kole Hunter, Dotty Miller, Janet Piercy, Debra Dambra and Elise Ramel. Our men include Paul Stephens (guitarist for Fawn Liebowitz, who recently played our Grampa Joe in *Willie Wonka*), Bill Piercy and the one and only local theater treasure, Harvey Cocks (in his 157th theater performance). Our cast

ranges from ages 7 to 90 (and a half). The icing on our holiday cake is musical director Jeanette Walsh who will have our audiences singing their favorite carols.

With so much holiday entertainment to choose from in this city, we hope you put *Holidaze* on your to-do list. You'll laugh, you'll sing along and, hopefully, you'll leave with some of that Christmas magic that makes all of the frenzy worth the effort.

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